



Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy
Statement for the Record
To Honor the Career of Winter Park Fire Chief Jim White
April 12, 2018

Mr. Speaker:

I rise to recognize Jim White, chief of the Winter Park Fire Department, who will be retiring in May after over 35 years of public service in the firefighting profession.

Chief White began his career in firefighting only a few miles from here as a volunteer at the Arlington County Fire Department in Virginia before moving to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where he worked for ten years as a professional firefighter. Chief White later established roots in Winter Park, where he has spent the last fifteen years as our city's top firefighter.

Some might say firefighting is the White family business. His father also volunteered as a firefighter, and his brother went on to become the deputy fire chief of the same Arlington fire station where White began his career. These men exemplify courage – running in while others are running out.

But whether it is because firefighting is in his family's DNA or because of his own passion for the job, it is clear that Chief White is both a capable leader and a dedicated public servant. During his tenure as the Winter Park Fire Chief, he oversaw the development of the city's first emergency management office, the improvement of several of the city's fire safety accreditations, and the construction of Winter Park's own public safety facility.

Chief White's achievements did not go unnoticed. In 2008, the International City Management Association awarded Winter Park its "Community Health and Safety Program Excellence Award" in recognition of an effort led by Chief White to modernize the city's fleet of ambulances, making it safer for rescue personnel to save lives. And, in 2014, Chief White received the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association's "Fire Chief of the Year Award" for his service to the public and his contributions to the fire service as a whole.

Although Chief White's leadership and experience will surely be missed at the department, he will leave an incredible legacy for others to follow. As a Winter Park resident myself, I want to personally thank Chief Jim White for his remarkable career in public service, and I wish Jim and his entire family all the best as they enter this new and exciting chapter in their lives.

May God bless Chief White and our brave firefighters and first responders across this nation who put their lives on the line to keep us safe.

